A comparative study of the effects of lecturer’s gender in “Science Seminar”

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Science outreach activities to junior and senior high school students by graduate students are important in the following two viewpoints. At first, such activities can bring up the researchers capable of explaining their extensive study of science and technology to public in various levels: They can also cultivate the next-generation researchers effectively because the closeness of ages between students and the lecturers (graduate students) provides a role model of their near future to teenagers. Niigata University has promoted this sort of activities in broad research fields, not only in natural science and technology but also in human science. About 20 graduate students give seminars on their own research as well as their carrier experience for more than 4,000 junior and senior high school students in total every year.

Among the female junior high school students who attended to seminar about natural science and technology in 2010 and 2011, the students who listened to a seminar from a female lecturer tended to show better feedback than from a male lecturer about impression of the seminar, interest in science, desire for the entrance to University. We present effects of the lecturer’s gender in seminars on physics by comparing to the other fields of study and suggest an educational method for graduate students to make a success of science outreach activities in physics.